

SWEET BRIAR COLLEGE



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SWEET BRIAR

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Bulletin of Sweet Briar College

Founded by Indiana Fletcher Williams

Chartered in 1901; opened in 1906

Degree: Bachelor of Arts

Campus: 3000 acres

Enrollment: 680

Geographic distribution, 1963-64:

north east 35% ; south east 48% ;

middle and north west 9% ; far west 1% ;

south west 5% ; foreign 2%

School distribution, class entering in 1963:

public 46% ; independent 54%

Faculty: 75, of whom 56 teach full time

Library: 110,000 volumes

Fields of Study: 23

Departmental majors: 19

Interdepartmental majors: 7

Endowment, 1963:

book, \$3,172,000; per student, \$4,640;

market, approximately \$5,357,000

Comprehensive Fee (tuition, room, board): \$2700

Scholarships: 12% ; loans: 2½ % ; self-help: 16%

Living alumnae: 8,516

President: Anne Gary Pannell (since 1950)



SWEET BRIAR AT A GLANCE

Sweet Briar College owes both its name and its spreading acres to the nineteenth-century plantation established by Elijah Fletcher, who came from Vermont in 1810, taught school in Amherst County, and later became a business and civic leader in the neighboring town of Lynchburg.

His daughter, Indiana Fletcher Williams, inherited this beautiful property and the homestead, Sweet Briar House. At her death in 1900, she directed the trustees of her estate to establish a school for the education of young women, "to best fit them to be useful members of society." This was her permanent memorial to her only child, Daisy Williams, who died at 16 in 1884.

An independent liberal arts college located in Virginia's Blue Ridge country, Sweet Briar College was started in and continues to develop with the twentieth century.

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FOR WOMEN WHO VALUE LEARNING

Sweet Briar believes that college is for learning—a place where each student can develop new interests and explore more widely and deeply those she already enjoys. It is a place where a young woman can grow socially, where she has new opportunities to assume adult responsibilities. All these opportunities are enhanced and sharpened by living in this college community. The faculty, of whom two-thirds have the doctorate, includes men and women who are graduates of many institutions in this country or abroad. Here, where the emphasis is on humanistic education, on teaching rather than research, the faculty works closely with the students both in and beyond class hours and shares a concern for the education of the whole human being.



Sweet Briar College provides a framework for the individual development of each student toward intellectual excellence, social responsibility, and spiritual grace.

In the belief that there is no substitute for a keen, disciplined search for knowledge, emphasis is placed on high academic standards. The College expects students to act on the basic premise that hard work is required, a practice regarded as fundamental to the development of the mind of an educated person. Sweet Briar's spacious setting, one of great natural beauty and serenity, is unusually conducive to reflection and self-discovery.

Students at Sweet Briar are encouraged from the beginning to regard themselves as adults, capable of analytical reading, fair criticism, wide appreciation, and discriminating value judgments. During the four years spent here, each student will be exposed to a wide range of ideas from our western cultural heritage as well as from eastern ideologies and civilizations.

A SOUND EDUCATION IN THE LIBERAL ARTS



In addition to acquiring a foundation in humanistic studies, she will be encouraged to think for herself in developing taste in music, literature, and art, and she will know the reasoned approach demanded in the scientific disciplines.

Sweet Briar believes that the emphasis on scholarship in a liberal arts curriculum prepares young women to become important contributors to good homes, good citizenship, and world peace and order. Education at Sweet Briar is directed toward the development of graduates who will value learning for its own sake, of enlightened young women well equipped to bring sound intellectual, ethical, and social standards to bear on the increasing complexities of modern civilization.

Gene Parnell



AREAS OF STUDY

Sweet Briar's central aim is to produce graduates whose minds have been exercised, who have learned how to think, and who by their experience of several disciplines have gained a sense of the unity and interdependence of knowledge and of the importance of basic human values.

The four year course of study in the liberal arts leads to the A.B. degree. Looking to the junior and senior years, when each student has chosen a major field of

concentration, a broad foundation in several areas of learning is provided in the first two years.

The Assistant Dean helps the freshman plan her program of studies, keeping in mind her individual interests and aims, and guides her academic course until the end of the sophomore year. The student then chooses her major and minor studies from among the departmental course offerings and the following interdepartmental major fields: American history and literature, international affairs, drama, physical mathematics, political economy, premedical sciences, psycho-sociology. The



chairman of her major department becomes her adviser for the last two years.

Most senior programs include a seminar, where individual papers or reports of independent projects are presented for critical discussion. From time to time there are joint seminars with students from neighboring colleges.

To be eligible for the degree, every senior must pass a comprehensive examination in her major field.



PLEASURE IN SCHOLARLY ATTAINMENT



Sweet Briar seeks to create an intellectual climate in which the desire to learn, the curiosity of the student, and pleasure in scholarly attainment claim the esteem of the student community.

The college recognizes that its first responsibility is to offer its students the best opportunities to stretch and develop their minds, and to catch the spark which makes learning exciting. With this stimulus, the student who wishes to go deeper or travel at a faster pace than others is encouraged by the granting of advanced placement or standing on the basis of achievement tests, by provision for independent work within the framework of established courses at all levels,



by assistantships in the language and science laboratories, and by public showings or performances in the creative arts. A French Corridor and special language tables provide opportunities for developing foreign language facility. Foreign study in the junior year offers to qualified students the advantages of learning in another land, of experiencing its language and culture, within the four-year college curriculum. Sweet Briar administers the Junior Year in France, chiefly at the University of Paris, and the college has a special exchange arrangement with St. Andrews University, Scotland. Juniors may also study under approved programs at universities in Italy, Spain, Germany, Switzerland, Great Britain, and elsewhere.



The Honors Plan of Study is designed for juniors and seniors, exceptional students with intellectual initiative, judgment, and ability to explore a special field intensively. Guided by a faculty member who directs her independent study, each student prepares papers and reports, and completes extensive assignments for her weekly tutorial conferences.

Recognition of outstanding scholarly achievement is emphasized through election to Phi Beta Kappa in the senior or, more rarely, the junior year.

Freshman Honor List, Dean's List, Junior Honors, designation as an Emilie Watts McVea Scholar, and degrees with honors are other forms of recognition for superior academic attainments.



LIVING AT SWEET BRIAR

In a residential college, girls from all sections of this country and from other lands live together, exchange ideas, and learn from each other, and gain experience which contributes to their education as responsible citizens.

Every student is a member of the Student Government



Association which began in 1906, the year the college opened. It is founded on a high concept of individual honor, reflected in the academic and non-academic life, and on the belief that each student shares responsibility for the most effective functioning of self-government. It is hoped that every incoming student understands these concepts and welcomes the opportunity to live by them.

Eight residence halls, containing common rooms and parlors, and two dining halls comprise the residential facilities. Most freshmen live in double rooms, although there are single rooms available and some suites for upperclassmen.

There are no sororities at Sweet Briar.

In keeping with life on the campus, dress is



informal but shorts and similar attire are not worn to classes or dining halls.

Every new student is welcomed by a member of the Orientation Committee, chosen from among those who have volunteered for this service. Her "Big Sister" guides her through the various activities of the opening week and lends friendly support throughout the year.

A student may turn to many members of the faculty and staff for counsel and guidance. Among those who are especially prepared to help, in addition to the Deans and their assistants, are the resident counselors, the college physician and the consulting psychiatrist, the chaplain, and the faculty sponsors of each class.





BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Education at Sweet Briar is extended in many directions beyond the classroom, through a diversified program of concerts and lectures, theatre and dance, and through a variety of organizations where students may discover new interests or cultivate their talents. Exciting developments in both teaching and learning, through cooperative productions in the creative arts, came into being with the Mary Reynolds Babcock Fine Arts Center in 1961. Its beautiful auditorium, with complete modern stage equipment, offers exceptional opportunities for students who enjoy work in theatre production, on stage or behind the scenes. The results are presented to the public in three major productions of *Paint and Patches*, the drama club, and in offerings of experimental theatre. Babcock Auditorium also provides an ideal setting for performances by professional musicians, dancers, and theatre companies,



for student recitals, and for concerts by the *Sweet Briar Choir* with choral groups from men's colleges. Students who enjoy singing may gain admission to the *Choir*, which is an integral part of the weekly Sunday church services. Informal in style and repertoire is a ten-voice group known as the *Sweet Tones*.

Dance Group, open to students who have achieved a degree of proficiency in modern dance, presents a spring program of original dances. Its members also appear in cooperative productions with the drama and choral groups. Attention is focused on current issues in politics and foreign relations by chapters of the *Young Democrats* and *Young Republicans*, the *World Affairs Club*, and the campus affiliation of the *National Students Association*. An honorary society, *Tau Phi*, sponsors discussions of literary or educational topics. Closely related to classroom teaching are field trips to museums

and art galleries, to industrial plants and social welfare institutions, to government agencies in Washington, and to historical places in Virginia. Students publish a weekly newspaper, *The Sweet Briar News*; a literary periodical, *The Brambler*; a yearbook, *The Briar Patch*; the *Students' Handbook*; and a booklet for new students, called *The Key to Sweet Briar College*.

Religion has always been an essential of life at Sweet Briar, which is independent of church affiliation. The college Chaplain is in charge of the worship program, and conducts many services. Chapel services, held every Tuesday and Friday at noon, are normally led by faculty members or students. At intervals, distinguished ministers representing various denominations are invited to preach at the church services, held every Sunday morning. These are followed by informal discussions, open to the community. All students are invited to join the Y W C A.

It sponsors a three-day Annual Religious Conference, conducts Sunday vespers and other devotional services, arranges discussion meetings with students from three colleges in Lynchburg, and channels volunteer aid to others through several welfare projects in the neighborhood.





Enjoyment of a variety of sports and games and the accompanying skills and disciplines which they entail are the basis for the athletic program at Sweet Briar. Expert instruction, excellent facilities outdoors and in a well-equipped gymnasium, and natural assets of terrain and climate are combined to the best advantage.

Participation in physical education is required of freshmen and sophomores, and is optional for upperclass students. All are encouraged to take advantage of the opportunities for learning and enjoying sports.

Intercollegiate hockey, lacrosse, tennis, and basketball are played by Sweet Briar teams. An

S P O R T S

active program of intramural games and tournaments is sponsored by the Athletic Association, and there are horse shows and dance concerts. Throughout the year, instruction is offered in modern dance and riding, which is taught in a large indoor ring. Badminton, squash, and volleyball are among the winter indoor sports, supplanted in spring by tennis and lacrosse. When warm weather comes, the lake attracts those who enjoy swimming, boating, and canoeing.

Sweet Briar has an Outing Cabin on a mountainside two miles from the college, and those who like mountain hiking may join the Lynchburg branch of the Appalachian Trail Club.





A week after college opens, the Social Committee gives a dance for new students, where their “Big Sisters” introduce

them to men from nearby colleges—Washington and Lee, University of Virginia, Virginia Military Institute, and Hampden-Sydney. Shortly thereafter, Sweet Briar freshmen are invited to similar dances given for new students at the neighboring men’s colleges.

During the week most of the dates come from Lexington and Charlottesville; on weekends, their numbers are greatly increased and many come from more distant colleges. On campus, girls and their dates play tennis or ping pong, listen to

SOCIAL LIFE

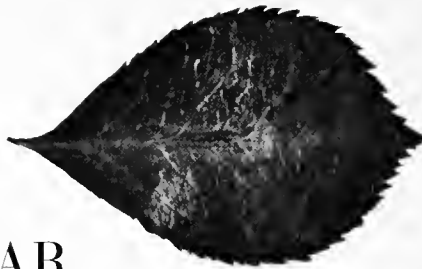


records or play cards at the Boat House or the “Date House,” cook Saturday night supper or Sunday breakfast in the Emily Bowen Room. Off campus, they may choose dinner and dancing, bowling, or movies in Lynchburg. Picnics are especially popular in spring and early fall. The social program varies from year to year, but it usually includes two big dance weekends—

Fall Dances or Midwinters, and May Day—with a dinner dance, class parties, informal dances or a hootenanny. The Social Committee frequently provides movies, plans informal parties, or arranges a jazz concert by a combo or a singing group such as the

Sazeracs from Washington and Lee or Princeton’s *Nassoons*. On weekends, students often attend football games, dances, and parties at men’s colleges near and far. They also travel to New York and Washington, to Atlanta, Richmond, or other cities. During the winter, they go to nearby Hot Springs to enjoy skiing and skating at the Homestead.

ADMISSION TO SWEET BRIAR



In selecting its students, Sweet Briar College considers each applicant as an individual. The Committee on Admission makes a careful study of her complete credentials, including the school record, test scores, and recommendations of character and academic promise made by the school. It looks for those qualities of intellect, of motivation and interest in learning, which indicate that she can succeed in and profit from the academic offerings of the college. Whether she gives promise of being a constructive member of the college community and of making a contribution to the lives of others, both during college and later, are considerations of especial significance. Every student who enters college carries increasing responsibility to use this educational opportunity to the best advantage in these days when others equally well qualified have had to be denied admission.

Each applicant is expected to present a strong school record which includes a minimum of 16 academic units. Four years of English are required and the following are strongly recommended if they are offered by her school: foreign language, 4 years of one or 5 of two; mathematics, 3 years (including 2 of algebra and 1 of plane geometry); history, 1; laboratory science, 1; additional elective units in any of these subjects. Since the offerings of schools differ widely, consideration is always given to programs that vary from the recommended pattern.

Applicants are informed of the committee's decisions in mid-April.

Tests for Admission. All applicants must take the Scholastic Aptitude Test and at least three Achievement Tests of the College Board. The Preliminary Scholastic



Aptitude Test (PSAT), taken in October of the junior year, will be accepted in lieu of the regular SAT for that year; in the senior year, the SAT must be taken in December or January. A total of three Achievement Tests, divided if necessary between senior and junior years, is required. In January of the senior year, the English test must be offered and if possible two other tests in continuing subjects. Fewer than three will be accepted, provided a student offers in addition one or two tests in terminal or one-year subjects taken in May of the junior year. Full information about tests and the centers where

they are given may be obtained from the College Entrance Examination Board, Box 592, Princeton, New Jersey, or Box 27896, Los Angeles 27, California.

Early Decision Plan. Well qualified juniors who apply *only* to Sweet Briar College will be given a decision in early December rather than in April of senior year. The committee's decision is based on the record of the first three years of high school and the scores of all College Board tests taken in junior year. The Achievement Tests should be taken in May, the SAT may be taken then or earlier that year.

Interviews and Visits. Although an interview is not a requirement, prospective students are encouraged to visit the campus and talk with a member of the Admission Office staff. If a request is made several weeks in advance, a student hostess may arrange for a Friday night visit in a dormitory. For those who cannot come to the college, an interview elsewhere with an Alumnae Representative on Admission or a college officer may possibly be arranged.

Further information about admission, including the Early Decision Plan and names of Alumnae Representatives on Admission, is given in the college catalog. Application should be made to the Director of Admission before January 15 of the year of entrance.



EXPENSES

A comprehensive fee covers tuition, room, board, ordinary medical care, laboratory fees, and laundry allowance. For those students who elect courses in applied music, there are moderate charges for instruction in piano, voice, organ, and violin, and for the use of practice rooms. Fees for riding are based on the frequency of rides and instruction.

A student with limited funds should estimate her expenses, in addition to those mentioned, at from \$300 to \$500 per year. This includes the \$40 Student Activities Fee, paid annually to the Student Government Association. The lower figure may not cover travel, but should take care of books and supplies, clothes, recreation and incidentals.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Freshman Scholarships are awarded on a competitive basis, determined by the quality of the applicants' credentials, and financial need. The sum granted in each case is established with the aid of the *Statement of Financial Need* of the College Scholarship Service.

At least 12 Freshman Scholarships with awards up to \$1,600 and two up to \$2,100 each are offered annually. Consideration is given to the student's school record, test scores, and to qualities of character, academic purpose, and leadership. Applicants from Virginia are given preference in several of these grants.

Scholarships established by the Procter & Gamble Fund cover tuition for four years and an allowance for books and supplies. Other special grants are provided by the General Motors Scholarship Program and by the Huguenot Society.

A number of Sweet Briar alumnae clubs offer area scholarships for entering students who need financial aid, varying in amount from \$100 to \$1,200. They are: Baltimore, Boston, Charlotte, Chicago, Cleveland, Denver, Houston, Lynchburg, New York,

northern New Jersey, Philadelphia, Richmond, Roanoke, Rochester, N. Y., southern Connecticut, St. Louis, Toledo, Washington, Westchester County, and Wilmington, Del.

Three awards of \$200 each are open to competitors in Tournaments of the Virginia Classical and Modern Language associations, and a \$200 award is open to a high-ranking competitor in the Virginia Science Talent Search.

Scholarships are also available to students who enter with advanced standing. Several special grants are reserved for foreign students, and certain funds are available for music students.

All scholarships are awarded by the Committee on Scholarships. Applications should be made to the Dean by January 15 of the year of entrance.



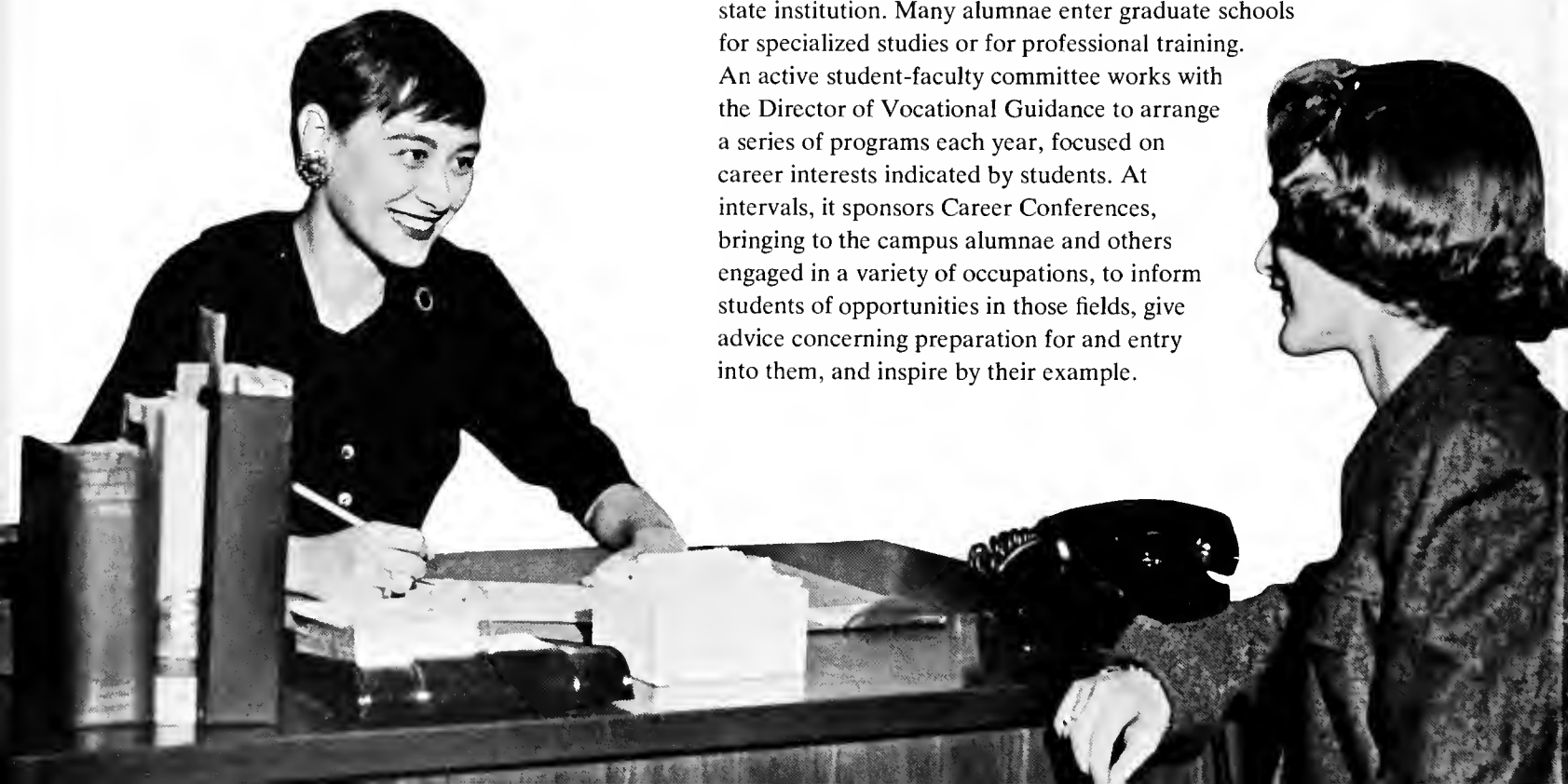
OTHER FINANCIAL AIDS

Loans are available through the National Defense Student Loan Program, and through the Book Shop at Sweet Briar. Entering students accepting financial aid must take a portion as a loan. To help finance their educations, students work in administrative and departmental offices, the library, Book Shop, science and language laboratories, dining rooms, and snack bar. They also do typing, tutoring, supervising music listening hours, working on commission for firms in Lynchburg and elsewhere, and baby-sitting. These part-time campus jobs may pay up to \$400 per year, depending on the time spent or needed.

The Vocational Guidance Director helps students locate summer jobs or employment after college.

CAREERS AFTER COLLEGE

Sweet Briar's liberal arts education prepares a large number of its graduates to go directly into government work, business, journalism, and especially into teaching. Some students do practice-teaching, including elementary French and Spanish, in local public schools or in classes for mentally-retarded at a nearby state institution. Many alumnae enter graduate schools for specialized studies or for professional training. An active student-faculty committee works with the Director of Vocational Guidance to arrange a series of programs each year, focused on career interests indicated by students. At intervals, it sponsors Career Conferences, bringing to the campus alumnae and others engaged in a variety of occupations, to inform students of opportunities in those fields, give advice concerning preparation for and entry into them, and inspire by their example.



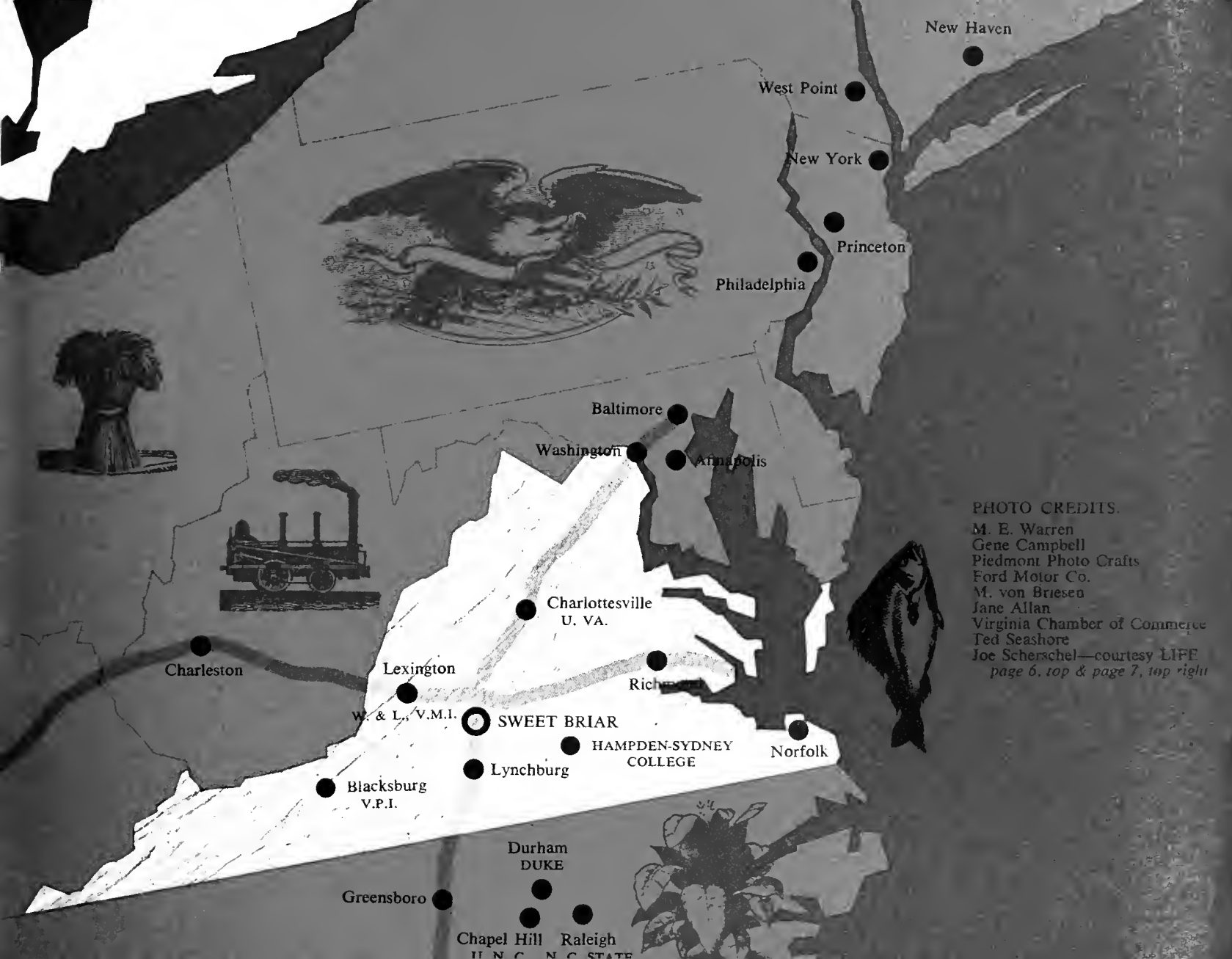


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Sweet Briar College, Sweet Briar, Virginia

